

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Serial No.: 09/732,788

Our Ref: Q62242

51 and a lower mold 52. The inside face of the upper mold includes a dome-like sealing face, which defines an upper part of the molding cavity in which the terminal connection portion of the sheathed wire is accommodated and into which molten resin is injected. The advantage of this feature is that the resulting molded resin will be smoothly released from the upper mold, as shown in Figure 2(B). Thus, the operator can easily view and remove the molded terminal connecting portion from the lower mold without contorting his or her body, as was the problem with the admitted prior art arrangement where the molded terminal connecting portion remained adhered to the upper mold. *See*, Figure 4(B).

In the rejection, the Examiner asserts that the admitted prior art discloses each of the features recited in claim 1, with the exception of the requirement that the upper mold have a dome-like sealing surface. However, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner has mischaracterized the teachings of Saito such that the resulting Examiner's obviousness determination is improper.

More specifically, the Examiner states as follows:

Saito discloses a mold for forming a waterproof cable comprising an upper mold and a lower mold (col. 3, lines 8-16), wherein the molds having [sic - have] a dome-line shape formed with curvature (15, 17), so that a large contact area is not established between the wires and the inner wall surface and the packing material can be spread sufficiently, which improve the reliability of the waterproof structure (col. 2, lines 37-43).

Page 2 of Office Action (emphasis added).

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Thus, the Examiner asserts that the dome-like shape of the upper mold results in a large contact area not being established between the wires and the inner wall surface so that the packing material can spread sufficiently. However, it is not the dome-like shape of the upper cavity that provides this advantage, but rather the presence of the ridges 35a and 35b. For example, the reference states:

According to the second feature of the invention, a large contact area is not established between the wires and the inner wall surface at the substantially central portion by the ridges arranged on the substantially central portion of the drum-like shaped cavity, so that the packing material can be spread sufficiently.

Col. 2, lines 37-43 (emphasis added).

Further, the reference states:

During this operation, wires 21 (shown in FIGS 4 and 5), received in the upper and lower halves, are supported on the ridges 35a, 35b, so that a large contact area is not established between the wires 21 and the parallel surface 19 of the central portion 11. In other words, a space 37 is formed between the wires 21 and the parallel surface 19, as shown in Fig. 3.

Col. 3, line 56 - col. 4, line 4 (emphasis added).

As can be appreciated from the foregoing, it is the ridges, and not the curved-like shape of the upper mold, that provides the advantage highlighted by the Examiner - the avoidance of a large contact area. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner's obviousness determination, which is premised on this mistaken interpretation of Saito, is unsupported. The Examiner asserts that:

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the Applicant's invention was made to modify the admitted prior art by reshaping the upper mold surface with a dome-like structure as taught by Saito, because the dome-like structure would provide less contact surface between the wires and the inner wall of the mold and would facilitate the removal of the product after being formed.

Office Action, page 3 (emphasis added).

Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the reference that the dome-like structure of the upper molds provides the advantage of reducing the contact surface between the wires and the inner wall of the mold, Applicant respectfully submits the Examiner's obviousness position is improper. Further, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, there is no teaching or suggestion in Saito, that the dome-like structure will "facilitate the removal of the product after being formed."

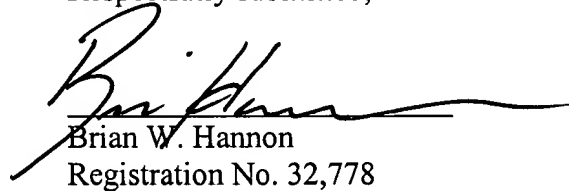
In view of the foregoing, since the Examiner's obviousness position is based on an improper reading of the Saito reference, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness determination is fatally flawed.

Therefore, it is requested that the rejection be withdrawn that the application be allowed to issue. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Applicant hereby petitions for any extension of time which may be required to maintain the pendency of this case, and any required fee, except for the Issue Fee, for such extension is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4880.

Respectfully submitted,


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